



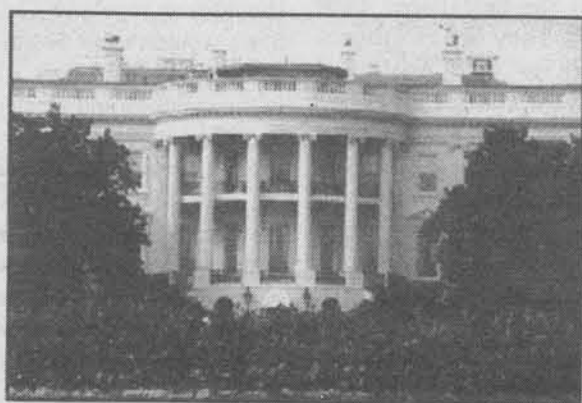
THE GLASTONBURY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

High School Library  
Glastonbury, CT.

# HAWK'S EYE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE V

April 1998



## Glastonbury Students Get a Taste of Legislating

By Julie Radocchia

The media constantly portrays teenagers as sex driven, strung out, violent souls. Albeit this may be true in some cases, there is much more to generation X (or whatever it is that the media is calling us these days).

Last weekend, I had the chance to observe 500 teenagers from around the state do something not very characteristic of generation X; they were doing something positive. I had a chance to observe this at Youth and Government weekend, in which high-school students got a chance to run a mock state legislature program.

Each year, for a whole weekend students stay at the Sheraton Hotel in Hartford and spend the days debating in the authentic legislative chambers of the Capitol and the Legislative Office Building. Students write their bills ahead of time, and debate them throughout the weekend. Some of the bills that delegates from Glastonbury brought with them to debate included: stripping students of their extra-curricular activities as well as sports participation for DWI arrests and drug abuse, mandatory teacher evaluations of students, and the divvying

Cont'd On Page 4

## GHS Swimmers Finish Seventh at Open Relay awarded All-American as many records are broken

By Dan Brame

The Glastonbury swimmers were the last to finish their winter season, but they made sure to finish on a high note. The already long season was extended a few more days as the State Open, scheduled for a Saturday, was pushed back to Monday due to inclement weather. When Monday finally came along, the swimmers were ready to go.

Tim Baudis was the highest finisher out of Glastonbury's elite. He broke the 100-meter breaststroke record with a 1:01.3, nearly three full seconds faster than the old mark set in 1984. Baudis joined senior Rick Holahan and juniors Jon Ferris and Adam Clements to break two fifteen year old relay records set by Edmond Jowdy and Co. back in the early 80's. The medley relay team finished third at LL finals and fifth at Opens with a time of 1:40.3. This

time also qualified the relay for All-American consideration, only a couple of seconds off an automatic bid. Baudis, Holahan, Ferris, and Clements fell short of the 400-meter freestyle record at the LL finals, but had one more shot at the Opens. It was the last event and seniors Holahan and Baudis wanted their names up on the record board one more time. After he anchored the relay in a record-breaking time of 3:20.3, senior Co-captain Tim Baudis said, "This is how I always dreamed of ending my high school career." Junior Adam Clements added, "I am glad for these guys. We are really going to miss there next year."

While the relay team was riding high on top of the water, individual swimmers also clocked in great times at both the Finals and the Open. The long distance events proved to be Glastonbury's best as they

posted fast times across the board. In the 200-meter freestyle Andrew Sterling received a best time (1:53.4) at the finals, while teammate Jon Ferris went on to the Open to record a career best (1:49.6) and finish tenth. In the 200 individual Medley Tim Baudis and Richard Holahan both placed in the top ten. The best race at the Open was between Sterling and Jon Ferris in the 500 freestyle. The two swimmers swam stroke for stroke for the entire race as the result was two more best times and top ten finishes. Ferris (4:51.30) and Meats (4:52.6) finished 8th and 10th respectively. Best times were also posted in the following events at Finals and Opens: Greg Tinti- 100 Butterfly (56.3), Adam Clements- 100 freestyle (49.8), Christian Sterling- 500 freestyle (5:03).

## Students Debate Over Weighing of GPA's

By Lexi Jones

Is it easier to get a high grade in a level one class than it is in a level two class? This is the question many students at GHS have been asking themselves ever since level one classes were first introduced to Glastonbury High School. The Grade Point Average (GPA) system at Glastonbury High School adds an extra point to the grade of every level one class taken. So, if you were to get a "B" in a level one class it would count as an "A" in a level two class when determining GPA. How-

ever, it is being argued that it is easier to get a "B" in a level one class, which is equal to a level two "A," than it is to get an "A" in a level two class, counting the equivalent in GPA. If this is true, it gives the students who opt to take level one courses an unfair advantage over students taking level two.

The popular opinion among students seems to be that the difference between levels depends on the subject of the class. "In level one classes you tend to go into more depth, but

it is still easier to get a higher grade," says senior Heather McRoberts. "We get more accomplished because there are usually fewer disruptive people in class. Sometimes, it is better to have the level two class, though, if you really need it, especially in languages. I used to be in level two and we did a great deal more grammar and basic skill than we do now and it really helped me out."

This also varies by teacher. Some teachers prefer to

Cont'd on Page 4

### What's Inside

Editors Rambling	Pg. 2
Opinion	Pg. 3
News/Features	Pg. 5
Arts	Pg. 6
Freestyle	Pg. 7
Roving Reporter	Pg. 8



## Editors Rambling

By Kanishka Azimi and Marc Pelka

At last, senior year is starting to kick in: little or no homework, rejection and acceptance letters coming in (okay, so maybe they were all rejection letters, that doesn't mean I'm stupid or anything....)

But before I could fully assume a state of senioritis, I had to fulfill my rite of passage and finish this all-night layout of the newspaper. The newspaper, despite its not-so-rave reviews from time to time has always taken up insane amounts of time. All I have to say is that I thank each and every person who has helped me get through the insanity and gotten me to this point...

This year, I finally accomplished my goal since day one of my sophomore year as news editor: a decent and respectable newspaper. Changing the name certainly worked along with changing the staff and the attitude. The staff. I have never met a group of more dedicated kids, who always come through for you and always can be counted on, than the editors of the Hawk's Eye. The toughest part of the paper is that when an editor signs up for a position, each year he or she has no clue what to do or expect and he or she has to sort of create his or her own job. Some people who have been exceptionally helpful and reliable have been Jon Ferris, Ian Gordon, Marc Pelka, Kristin Dombrowski, Sybil Dessie, and Tejal Gandhi. If it weren't for these people, I don't think even one issue would have been completed by now. They have been utterly indispensable and they have made me proud over the year as they have learned the ropes of the newspaper. I really would like to thank all of them for they have truly made this newspaper fairly respected among the students of GHS.

After that, I would like to thank Mr. Robert Furlong, or "Bob" as I affectionately call him. He has helped me keep my sanity one day at a time when I thought the work of the newspaper would never be finished. Whenever I got frustrated or annoyed, his witty sense of humor and his patience always kept me from quitting.

Who knew that after three frustrating years that my fourth year would be the charm?

So, yeah, I guess I'll ramble now. First off, I'm extremely disillusioned after three rejection letters and two wait-listing letters. It's like I have to rethink things all over again. I never pictured I would be in this situation.

I utterly despise drinking. I just hate it. I see alcohol, not money, as "the root of all evil." I think it's pathetic that any student has to resort to drinking to

have a good time, and I just hope and wish and pray that, someday, Glastonbury deals with its teen drinking problems. Otherwise, all those borderline kids who don't know whether or not they really want to drink, but just do it to hang out with their friends, wouldn't be forced in the situation of choosing between friends and alcohol. (No, I am not speaking from personal experience; I just see it so often).

I am really going to miss Youth and Government (in case you have no clue what I'm talking about, see the front page). I've met so many cool people over the last 3 years and I've had so much fun that it has almost come to be a part of my existence.

Thank god I haven't heard the name Monica Lewinsky for the last few weeks or so.

I love the Mets. I can't wait to go to Shea Stadium.

The Senior Ball is just one big plot to force everybody to choose who their friends are. No matter who you choose, you will lose.

I want to move to North Carolina. It's an awesome state.

What is the penalty for killing a preying mantis?

If you are ever looking for a good newspaper to read (and somehow this paper isn't enough to quench your hunger for knowledge), try reading *The New York Times*. It's absolutely fascinating. Its surprising to find out that so much happens in the world every single day...

I bet anybody if they went around the school asking people to define white hat, not one person could do it...We all use the word, but nobody, nobody really has any clue how to define it. It's like a overused label now that people use to describe anybody who is a jerk to them.

Do you ever think about the communist concept of all holidays just being capitalist ploys to get people to buy stuff? Like Christmas. Think about it, nobody feels like leaving their house, let alone going shopping in the middle of the cold winter, so what do a bunch of corporations and store owners come up with? They take an ancient Christian holiday and make it into a buying and gift giving frenzy. Don't get me wrong, I love Christmas time as much as the next person. What about Valentine's day and Easter and you name it and there is a special candy, gift, theme, for all of them. I'm sure when the original founders of these holidays or for what ever or whose ever's purpose, none of them were meant to be big promotional days for sales at the mall. But then capitalism came along and

eureka, they became these big promotional things.

No, I want to move to Virginia. I love Virginia.

I remember the time I skipped school last year to go *The Late Show with David Letterman*. Now that was a day. I had so much fun. I left school second or third period. An hour later, I was on the Metro North train to Manhattan. It was so cool. I hope I get tickets soon for another show. Not that I would skip school for it or anything like that...

No, Nebraska. I want to live in Nebraska. I'm gonna buy me a huge 20 million acre cornfield and just farm away until the day I die. I love cornfields.

I love that movie *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. There's just something about Jimmy Stewart and his boy scout manners. So what if it's black and white.

If you ever want to watch a disturbing movie, watch the french movie *The Hate*. Its about these three completely hopeless teenager boys roaming the projects for a day until they run into some trouble. It all starts when a cop shoots one of their friends in a riot outside of Paris. They are all mad and trying to find ways to cope with it all. One of them vows to kill a cop or "pig," if their friend dies. The other two spend the whole time trying to stop the first kid from shooting a cop. Finally, and quite ironically, a cop shoots the first kid after the kid decides that it was stupid of him to even consider killing a cop for revenge.

I really don't have much to ramble about, so I'm just going to stop and pass the keyboard off to my main man Marc... (Marc's turn)

Do you ever ponder about how contradicting life is? Life can be so perfunctory for me but then so unfathomable at the same time. Week after week, I wake up and do the exact same boring routine each day. Then, whoever the Puppet Master is up there, gives my line a tug and things get crazy and silly again. Life never seems to have an even flow to it (to borrow from an old Pearl Jam song). While something can go so well for a moment, it seems like there's always something lurking nearby looking to thwart my happiness. Even how quickly I can transform from my usual smiling, giddy, laughing-self whom everyone has grown to love (sarcasm is totally intended) to a depressed, pouting, doppelganger is bizarre. Well, I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Hawk's Eye* and while you read each exhilarating sentence I will be struggling to find my inner-self ("somebody call an exorcist").

## It is Time to Listen to and Include Us

By Kanishka Azimi

It's time to include Glastonbury High School students in decisions about Glastonbury High School students. There are over 1600 students who fill the halls of GHS each morning. Although they all may not be the most intelligent of students, they are all intelligent enough to make decisions for themselves each and every day. They are intelligent enough to know that they need to work hard to get good grades and graduate. They are intelligent enough to coordinate dances like the senior ball and junior prom. They are intelligent enough to put together an issue of the newspaper each month. They are intelligent enough to take Advanced Placement courses. They are intelligent enough to publish a yearbook each year. They are intelligent enough to run and manage their own lives and balance a schedule between work, activities, and homework. Yet, they are not intelligent to govern themselves. They are not intelligent enough to make decisions on how their own school is run. It is at this point that I beg to differ with the administration of this school.

As state legislators consider a bill to include intelligent students on the state's educational administration, the State Board of Education, I think the GHS administration should consider including students in their decisions.

How could they possibly include students? Well, I've come up with a plan for that. It would simulate something like how Puerto Rico is represented in the United States House of Representatives or how GHS students are represented on the Board of Education in town. The students wouldn't overrun the administration with their influence or get any major vote in administrative decisions. Instead, students would get a

chance to give input to the administration before they make decisions (unlike the reactionary way students do now). They would do this similar to the way in which the Faculty-Liaison Committee (FLC) gives input at its regular meetings with the administration, almost like a Student-Liaison Committee. If that would take too much time out of administrators already busy schedules, then maybe it would be more practical to include the students could in the FLC meetings instead? No matter how the students and administration meet, they should meet and they should meet regularly. The students wouldn't just be any old students, though, they would be handpicked and elected by their peers. Thus, they would exemplify the best students of their respective grades since they would have to show the initiative to run campaigns and get elected. They would be our student representatives. I would not recommend merging them with the Student Council. The Student Council serves the purpose of serving the school and organizing activities for students. It finds itself in conflict with the administration, at times, and it probably wouldn't be wise to fuse the group together with more neutral student representatives. The students would be exclusively dedicated to improving the school environment and giving the administration on school policy.

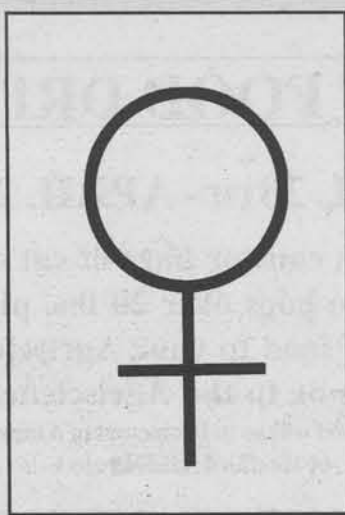
Why should students meet with the administration if the system of non-inclusion has been working fine in running GHS for decades now? For a variety of reasons. First of all, students would take pride in serving on this representative council and they would develop leadership skills as they dealt with the administration. They would also form an essential link

Cont'd on page 3

## Hawk's Eye Staff

Editors-in-Chief:	Kanishka Azimi Stacy Norris
Assistant:	Julie Radocchia
Arts Editor:	Kristin Dombrowski
Assistant:	Marc Pelka
News Editor:	Jon Ferris
Assistant:	Ian Gordon
Sports Editors:	Dan Brame
Features Editor:	Sybil Dessie
Layout Editor:	Brendan Callahan
Copy Editor:	Tejal Gandhi
Advisors:	Bobbo
Assistant:	Jimmy





## Unfair Field Trip?

By Christian Sager

There is an issue that has come up over the past hundred years that still has a great deal of importance in our everyday lives today. That issue is the idea of equality between the sexes. Last month I encountered a situation in which female were clearly separated from males at the high school. This event was the field trip, which was attended by many girls who are interested in the field of mathematics.

Now the question is: is it fair to offer a field trip in which only one of the two genders is allowed to participate? I don't think it is. Although I do agree with many of the ideas behind the field trip itself, I don't agree with the fact that only females could attend.

To the best of my knowledge, the field trip was to promote women in the workplace and equal opportunities for women. These are two principles that I am 100% behind. The day after the field trip had taken place I asked some of the girls how it went. It seemed as though all of them enjoyed it, would do it again, and thought

it was beneficial to them. But another one of the messages all of the participants I talked with seemed to agree on was that the field trip also included a lot of "male bashing."

This was when I started to strongly question them on the content of the trip. It seems that it was almost some kind of a rally for women. Things such as, "Should women make 75% of what a male would make in the same job?" followed by a resounding, "NO!" seemed to be the most powerful message of the seminars, not the fact that more women should be interested in the field of mathematics.

So I am left with questions for all of the people that went and support the seminars. If women are allowed to publicly "bash" men, then how will equality ever be reached between the sexes? Wouldn't true equality include equal rights and respect between both genders?

I would enjoy any responses to my statements/questions either through the paper or to myself directly.

## Students Cont'd

between the administration and students. Although students get in touch with Dr. Bookman each Friday morning, I think students are still longing for a quality time with the administration. Also, these Friday morning "fireside chats" with Dr. Bookman are very much representative of the one-way communication between students and administrators. The elected student representatives would be included in decisions such as forming the school's smoking policy and they would, therefore, be able to explain to their peers why the new policies were in effect.

How many times could we the school have used such a student liaison organization in the past? Now, if formed, it could deal with not only student problems, but also faculty and administration problems. Students are always asking for more individual rights and freedoms like an open campus while administrators are always looking for ways to curb problems like bathroom smoking. Maybe,

if the two sides were to negotiate, both could gain from mutual agreements to work towards the others goals. Also, this would prevent the confrontational way of interaction many students are forced to take with the administration since there would already be a working relationship between the two sides. If a student had a problem, he could vent through his representative and have the issue brought up at the next meeting. This would also instill in students a sense of representative government that could last them a lifetime. The list of benefits go on and on.

So, although this is my last year at GHS, maybe my ideal student representative idea will be adopted by the administration in the near future and who knows what kind of problems they could tackle over the years: drinking, smoking, and even boosting school spirit. As Humphrey Bogart once said, "This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship..."

## Wanted: Actresses With Brains

By Marc Pelka

Don't get me wrong about my affinity for movies; they are perhaps the only thing on this barren earth that give me the will to live. However, there is a major concern I have with the industry. That is the lack of strong female characters and, moreover, the way most are portrayed. How far back do you have to think when you can recall a female lead who didn't play behind a sharper, mightier man? Obviously, Hollywood wasn't designed for men exclusively. Movies were designed to not only provide a way of escape from day-to-day life, but to depict society. If real women were like those depicted in films, feminists would be bursting capillaries left and right.

The start of 1998 is a bad omen for what is to come for the rest of the year. Just in the past month, three movies immediately come to mind with pathetic female characters: *Palmetto*, *Wild Things*, and *The Man In The Iron Mask*. *Palmetto*, the reckless thriller about a mother and a daughter (Elisabeth Shue and Chloe Sevigny) who seduce a man (Woody Harrelson) into partaking in their kidnapping scheme, certainly left me with ambivalent emotions. On one hand, there was Elisabeth Shue looking exceptionally voluptuous, Gina Gerson still radiating rays of sexuality, and lesser-known Chloe Sevigny from *Kids* showing the benefits of puberty. On the other hand, these three women's characters were centered around their sexuality with little else in between. Instead of using their brains to bamboozle Harrelson, Shue's and Sevigny's characters one by one physically offered themselves to him. Gerson, meanwhile, was his old-fashioned girlfriend without a mind of her own

who all too quickly forgave Harrelson for engaging in a little hanky panky with both girls. Apparently, the steamy town of *Palmetto* has many job openings for female applicants; I.Q.s need only be above 75.

Sex has always been used to sell products. Whether it be beer, cologne, toothpaste and, yes, movies. *Wild Things*, using the line "They can turn you on," blatantly exploits sexuality in its advertisement by boasting its two attractive leading ladies, *Scream*'s Neve Campbell and *Starship Troopers*' Denise Richards. Like *Palmetto*, these two high school girls use (guess what?) their bodies to seduce and eventually set up their guidance counselor by having him nabbed for inappropriate forms of extra help. Did Sharon Stone's ice pick killer in 1992's *Basic Instinct* convince all these writers to reduce clever, yet evil, women to being seen only as seductresses manipulating vulnerable men with the mentality of a teenage boy?

By glancing at the action/adventure genre of film it only gets worse- Natasha Henstridge of *Maximum Risk*, Cindy Crawford of *Fair Game*, and Nicholas Cage's girlfriends in *The Rock* or *Con Air* (or any film produced by Jerry Bruckheimer for that matter.) Are there any action flicks out there where the female does the gun blasting and swearing while the men chase after her in cute little tank tops and torn jeans? No, *Barb Wire* definitely does not count. The lack of lead female heroes tells us that America doesn't have any confidence in women saving the planet; is that out of male dominance or are we scared if women are given the chance they will prove equal to men?

The more provocative fe-

male characters are found in the off beat and independent films, where when the characters are on the mark, it's a bull's eye. Take 1996's Best Actress at the Academy Awards, Frances McDormand, for her portrayal of Chief Marge Gunderson, a pregnant police chief in the 1996's *Fargo*. Her character led her police department to solve numerous murders; she was the "good guy" in the gory climax involving a wood chipper, and she modestly outsmarted men. McDormand portrayed the strongest female lead in years.

In that same year, *Secrets & Lies* told the story of an adopted young woman (played by Marianne Jean-Baptiste) searching for her birth mother. Jean-Baptiste is both intelligent and independent in her role. Even the women in *The English Patient* (Kristin Scott-Thomas and Juliet Binoche) exemplified women who were autonomous in a time during World War II when a girl's motive was to tag alongside her husband. Diane Keaton also played a woman who pushed her personal life behind when she was asked to help her sick relatives in *Marvin's Room*.

If last year's Academy Awards could boast such rich female characters who should have redefined the way Hollywood would wrote women, how come we have since retrogressed to weak female characters? My only idea is that women's equal rights are still kicking into our material world, and the movie industry is still struggling to accept it.

Also in line for "Correcting My Depiction In Hollywood Films," are homosexuals (typically the butt of jokes) and almost every race other than caucasians.

## The NCAA Must Act Before College Sports Become Worse

By Dan Brame

When I first heard that two college basketball players had been indicted for fixing games in which they had played, I did not pay much attention to the news. Perhaps I was not surprised because I have become accustomed to the hypocrisy and corruption that pervades college athletics, and sports in general. However, when I heard that the players were from Northwestern, I was very surprised, although I really shouldn't be. Northwestern, that bastion of academic excellence and athletic incompetence in the Midwest, has been a relatively clean program over the

years. I did not expect this school to be tarnished by a scandal that usually occurs at less esteemed universities. I was probably just being naïve, but I expected the intelligent student athletes at Northwestern to have more common sense than to fix basketball games. This unfortunate situation illustrates both the lure of money for the unpaid student athletes and the scourge of sports gambling in society. Now the corruption is seeping into programs at highly respected institutions such as Northwestern, and the NCAA will have to act before the problem becomes even worse.

College athletes have suffered for years as students have followed the money trail to the professional level, foregoing years of eligibility in the process. College coaches have complained that this diminishes the talent pool and makes it difficult for some schools to field competitive teams every year. I think that the Northwestern scandal proves that college basketball has a greater problem to deal with in the coming years. Since CCNY and Kentucky players were accused (and in some cases convicted) of fixing games fifty years ago, the NCAA has had to deal with gambling and its effect on college athletics.



## Hopes are High For Baseball

By Ian Gordon

With the arrival of new varsity head coach Ken Soucy and the return of a talented core of juniors and seniors, the 1998 edition of Glastonbury Tomahawks baseball is sure to be an exciting one. Led by senior captain Chris Baldwin, the team looks to improve on its quarterfinal appearance in the Class LL playoffs of a year ago.

The team is optimistic about the season and about its chances against the state's top teams, namely Simsbury, East Hartford, and a Southington team that many consider to be the best in the state. Why does this team seem better prepared to make a run at the state title than previous GHS teams that were known to underachieve come tournament time? If you ask the players, they will tell you it is a mix of experience and familiarity with one another together with the hiring of their new head coach.

Previously an assistant coach at Trinity College and head coach at Wethersfield High School, Soucy is a coach who demands that his players always work their hardest, whether it is in a practice or in a game. He has described the Glastonbury head-coaching job as his dream job, as he says that he has seen

too many talented GHS teams underachieve in the past. In Wethersfield, his teams had to out-hustle and out-think their opponents; now, in Glastonbury, Soucy hopes that this type of effort will still be prevalent even with the



plethora of talent that this year's Tomahawks possess.

Besides Baldwin, whose lethal bat should have got him a spot on the All-State team last year, the Tomahawks return a solid core of outfielders, with seniors Ryan Kindl and Kevin Hadfield in left and center-fields, respectively, and junior Eric Tillberg in right. Of Kindl, Soucy claims that "the kid doesn't know how good he is or how good he could be," as

he has a rare combination of power and speed that Soucy will utilize at the top of the lineup. The infield, comprised of Baldwin, who could play third base, shortstop, or first base this season, junior third baseman Rory Desmond, and junior middle infielder Jason Boice is as solid an infield as the Tomahawks have had; however, where Baldwin plays will dictate who plays where in the rest of the infield. Catching duties will be held by junior Craig Barber, as senior Matt Wilchinski is sidelined with an injury. The pitching staff, which traditionally has been the weakness of past GHS teams, is solid, as senior Matt Izbicki and juniors Paul Melzen and Ryan LaMarche look to throw a lot of innings this year.

Hopes are high for the teams post-season prospects this year. For now, though, the Tomahawks need only to look at their first game against Simsbury to see that they must take this season one game at a time. That game, against dominating Rob Moravek, will be a great test for this Tomahawk team, a team that, under the guidance of Coach Soucy, could be making a lot of noise in June.

## Gov't Cont'd

up of Bridgeport into the four surrounding suburbs.

The bills begin in committees organized by topic. If they pass through their committee, they move on to the House and the Senate. To get one's bill to the House or Senate, in itself, is quite an accomplishment considering the 200 or so bills that begin in committee. Here, students again debate the bill and vote on it again, but this time many more people are involved. If its passed there, it moves on to the other chamber and then to the Attorney General's office. When, and if, it finally makes it through all of that, it goes to the Governor's office where he can either sign or veto the bill. This process seems long and drawn out, but the debate in the middle is engaging. In fact, visiting representatives from the Connecticut state legislature stated that some of the debate and bills were more intelligent and well thought out than that of their own legislature.

There are other facets of the program for those who do not favor debating. One can choose to be a lobbyist, someone who takes a stance on a bill and is allowed to make a short speech before debate begins on that bill, or a member of the press or video corps, who publishes many issues of a newspaper and a video throughout the week-

end. Another possibility for delegates is to argue as a lawyer in a mock appeal case.

Perhaps one of the most interesting sides of the Youth and Government Annual Convention is the political process. Each year, students plan parties well ahead of time. This is not Republican or Democrat, or the Green Party, but names ranging from "The Force" to "Victory" to "The Party." Also, unlike real politics, these parties do not usually have a stance on pressing issues. Their main purpose is to represent candidates for the election of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, Secretary of the State, and Attorney General. They also are able to hold positions as a party leader in the House and Senate. These people have more power because they have a preference when it comes to being recognized. All this involves a lot of hoopla and politics, but it makes things much more interesting.

The weekend is not only filled with debating and politics, though. It is definitely one of the best chances to meet other students your age from around the state. There are dances on both nights where people are relaxed and ready to have fun. These socials are mandatory, a serious drawback, but they definitely force you to have fun with the people that you could have been arguing against earlier in

the day.

Delegations, or towns, each have their own identity. Lauralton Hall has the reputation of being a large block that sticks together, which comes from their strict advisement. Wilton usually is independent and a bit on the radical side. And we, along with Meriden, have the reputation of being able to debate during the day and knowing how to have fun with the program at night.

This year, Glastonbury had thirty-six delegates at the weekend, which is almost double from the past few years. For the first time in ages, we were a power block. Among these delegates, there were four senators, seniors Kanishka Azimi and John Smith, and juniors Anusha Prasad and David Kupecky; two party leaders, Azimi and Kupecky, and Speaker of the House, myself, senior Julie Radocchia. Kupecky won the honor of best bill in his senate for his third year in a row. All in all, it was a very successful year for Glastonbury.

"Youth and Government has, by far, been the most important and most enjoyable activity that I have participated in during my high school career. I'm so jealous of people who get to do that for a living...Now that it's over, though, I wish I could go back just one more year," senior Kanishka Azimi nostalgically stated.

## PET FOOD DRIVE

APRIL 20TH - APRIL 24TH

-Bring in cans or bags of cat or dog food (no bags over 20 lbs. please)  
-Bring food to your Agriscience classroom or to the Agriscience office

The food will go to Protectors of Animals or Hartford AIDS Project

## Peer Education PAWS Conference

by Katie Patten

On Thursday, March 19, Peer Educators old and new attended the Fourth Annual PAWS Conference at Manchester Community College. Personally, it was my third time at the event. Speaking for many members of Peer Ed, it was the best one so far. The day was spent attending various workshops and meeting new people.

Workshops ranged in their topics from sexual orientation to dealing with relationships to hearing a tragic story of drunk driving. There were not very many people who were left unaffected by the story of presenter, Kristen Marcroft. She killed one of her best friends because of her decision to drink a few beers before getting behind the wheel. Connecticut Attorney

General, Richard Blumenthal, gave a presentation on smoking. One of Glastonbury's very own, sophomore Chris Sollinger, presented a workshop entitled "Facing the Sex Decision." Attenders felt he did a great job.

Peer educators, mediators, and helpers from around the state came for the event. There were some very interesting people to meet. Entertainment for the day was very different from previous years. Rob the Drummer made everyone jump out of their seats as he began his presentation with a very, very, very, loud tune. He encouraged everyone to find alternative, safe highs from music instead of drugs.

Luckily, the rain did not spoil a great day. It was a nice introduction for the new members of Peer Education and the old members had a good time, too.

## GPA Cont'd

have level ones doing harder work in greater quantities, yet others don't really bother to differentiate. There may be a greater, more difficult workload in some classes, but in others, the discrepancy doesn't seem to be that significant.

Originally, there was a level one made available to students who were interested in working at a more brisk pace and going further in depth. For some, it has turned into a way to raise GPA's. On the other hand, some people who have very high class ranks want to take electives that are not offered in level one. Most have chosen not to take them because they're afraid their GPA's will actually suffer from taking the level two course and they will drop in class rank. Is it right to educationally limit these students from learning about things that interest them?

One of the top one percent of the sophomore class, Lisa Grossman, agrees with many, "I feel pressured to take a level one class as opposed to a level two class because of the effect it will have on my

class rank. Among the top ten students in each class, there is a very small difference among the GPA's. Taking a level two class could put you behind several others, even if you get an 'A.'" Students with a more average class rank, however, don't seem to mind taking level two elective classes. "I enjoy taking orchestra as one of my electives," says sophomore Jackie LeRoy. "My GPA and class rank aren't the most important things to me; I would rather further my knowledge of music."

The difference between levels really depends on the course being taken and the teacher teaching it. Some teachers make a clearly defined line between level one and level two, but others create less contrast in terms of the amount of work and the difficulty of the material. This is definitely a point to be considered carefully when selecting courses. Despite opinions of students, level one could be more difficult in some areas, so they may not want to choose the higher level unless they are confident they can handle it.



## Club Hopes To Bring Back Recycling To GHS

By Beth Leach

The Environmental Conservation Club started last spring with the ideas of coordinators Carrie Brezzo and Emily Noonan. They were interested in reviving the recycling program that once existed at Glastonbury High School.

Under the direction of advisor Mr. Moran, the new Environmental Conservation Club (E.C.C.) has been planning many future activities and has done many previous charitable activities such as collect aluminum cans for recycling at the 1997 Applefest.

One of the club's primary

goals is to set up an effective recycling program to start beginning next school year. The club is striving to increase recycling of aluminum cans and styrofoam trays in the cafeteria as well as white paper in classrooms and the copy room. On January 15th, the club met to discuss the ideas of the club. The plans of the E.C.C. have been met with great support from administrators and many staff members.

The club plans to attend the May 7th staff meeting with a presentation of its accomplish-

ments and intentions. If the E.C.C. is granted approval, it will function as a recognized G.H.S. club next year. In the future, the club plans to raise environmental awareness within G.H.S. If the club is successful, it hopes to broaden its audience by including other Glastonbury schools and the community in their activities.

The members of the E.C.C. have been working hard to organize plans for next year. With the support of students and faculty, the club hopes to make its ideas a reality.

## Murals Bring Style and Color to School

By Tom Wickman

"It's refreshing to see those nice pictures on the wall. They're so lively and colorful. The school doesn't feel so much like a prison anymore."

That's what Mrs. Napoletano said at the end of last summer after seeing the murals in the senior hallway, and the positive feedback has come from several other teachers and school officials as well.

"It's nice to see the students get involved and give the extra effort to come in and make their school better," said Dr. Bookman.



The final week before the current school year, members of the class of 1998 came into school to paint murals above the lockers in the hallway that goes by the main office. Senior class president Katie Leonberger and vice president Tom Wickman organized and led the project. Brian Paice and several artists, as well as many non-artists, took part in the effort. When school began the students came back to a more cheerful hallway.

Since then, the student council has followed suit by organizing a mural contest between the classes which is part of a year long class competition with an award of one thousand dollars. The class officers were asked to organize artists and willing participants in their class to design and paint a large mural on the cafeteria wall. Once they have all been put up, each mural will be judged by a panel of art teachers and designated from first to fourth place.

The senior class doesn't take credit for the idea of painting murals in the hall. The first mural that went up was back in the seventies. It was painted by a student in the stairwell next to

the main office. Then, two years ago, then-seniors Chris Thompson and Jon O'Leary painted a large mural in the cafeteria depicting graduation.

This year, sophomores got an early start and finished their mural. It is a colorful picture of a "2000," made up of a giant 2 trailed by three planets floating in space.

Students have been greatly impressed by the quality of the mural. "It's cool," said senior Matt Wilchinski. "It's pretty good. It's good."

artistic integrity," said by fellow senior Griffin Waldo.

The juniors have also started their mural, but it isn't finished yet. So far it shows a Native-American sitting on a hill smoking a peace pipe. The smoke from the pipe forms a cloud spelling GHS, and according to John Ferris, junior class president, several images will be painted inside the smoke clouds.

"I thought it was just a big, gray GHS until someone pointed the Indian out to me. I couldn't see it because the ketchup and mustard table covers it up," said freshmen Scott Timpano.

The seniors were ready to start their mural, a mosaic that was made of 25 designs from different people in the senior class, but the idea was vetoed by Dr. Bookman who thought it would be "too sloppy."

"I think it's cheesy that the juniors can have some guy smoking a pipe in their mural, but Dr. B. won't let us paint our mural," said senior Kevin Berrill.

"It's cool to be able to leave a mark on the school," said Brian Paice.

That was the idea. The artists will eventually graduate but their art will remain on the walls for years.

## GHS Welcomes Dinardians

By Liz Saunders

For the early part of March, Glastonbury High was visited by 15 students from a small Atlantic village in France called Dinard. The group of French exchange students left their homes 3,500 miles away to join American families and students in Glastonbury for two weeks. While trying to improve their English skills, the students spent hours of time touring Glastonbury High School and attractions of New England. Being a very friendly group, the students were extremely interested in learning about the culture and values of Americans.

The students arrived from France on a Saturday afternoon in the United States battling hours of jet-lag time. Once the group arrived at the high school, they were truly happy to be accepted by families who provided the students with a home for their two-week stay. With the weekend to recover from the time difference, the students came into our school for the first time to experience a typical day at Glastonbury High.

Many students and teachers warmly welcomed the guests to our school, and took time to show and explain to the visitors how every day works at our school. You may have had the

opportunity to meet some of these students if they visited one of your classes. While visiting some of the French classes, the students finally were relieved from some tough work trying to comprehend the English language. The French students, although they were in the equivalent of ninth grade, were overwhelmed by the size of Glastonbury High. In France, the students attend a "collège" or a school equivalent to a junior high school here in Connecticut. In addition, the guests were amazed at how we are required to get out of bed so early to attend school. They were even more amazed at how early we get out of school in the afternoon compared to them. Where they live in France, school isn't let out until 5 o'clock in the afternoon. One other part of Glastonbury the students were surprised by was the weather in Glastonbury. Although we had virtually no snow, the students became extremely excited when they saw just a few flurries outside. After all, it very rarely snows in their town in France.

We of course didn't keep the visitors at Glastonbury High School for the entire two weeks. Regular excursions to nearby attractions such as Boston,

Mystic, and New York were planned for the French students in order to allow them to see a mix of cultures in the United States. In Boston, the French students visited Harvard University, the Kennedy Museum, and they also had the chance to shop at Quincy Market. In Mystic, the students toured the waterfront and got a taste of old New England. While in New York, the students walked the streets of Manhattan and took the ferry to Ellis Island and the statue of liberty (which was a gift from France). Here in Glastonbury, they had a tour all around our town in which they saw how we live in the United States compared to their village in France.

In no time at all, the two week stay ended for the 15 students on a Thursday morning before school. Tears were shed, cameras flashed for the last time, and the bus for the students to New York left with a new group of French students with many positive memories from a once in a lifetime opportunity. Returning to their homes in France, we can be sure the students had a lot to talk about to their friends and families relating to their stay in Glastonbury.

## Conference "Explores New Horizons"

By Lisa Grossman

On Tuesday, March 17, a group of Glastonbury High School's girls and teachers were among around 500 people who attended the "Exploring New Horizons Conference" at Three Rivers Community-Technical College in Norwich. The day began in the gymnasium with speakers who talked about their jobs and the opportunities for women in various careers, especially in nontraditional ones such as working in space explo-

ration, construction, and industry. The workshops, ranging from fiber optics to acupuncture, then began.

Everyone went to three workshops, which were each around forty-five minutes long with five-minute breaks between them. Prior to the conference day, students were allowed to choose six of 21 workshops geared towards math, technology, and science that they were interested in. Each person re-

ceived two of the six workshops they had picked and one random one. The workshops included a wide range of topics including veterinary medicine, marine biology, pharmaceuticals, the secrets and myths of nature, using underwater remotely operated vehicles, nuclear power, microbiology, fiber optics, optometry, the environment, acupuncture, the ER, surveying land, occupational therapy, the causes of infec-

tions, pollution, water testing, exploring the internet, creating graphic images on the computer, delivering things, and an overview of careers. Those who took the overview of careers found it very helpful in making choices about their future. Many people enjoyed the pharmaceutical workshop especially because they had the chance to make their own lip balm. All the workshops were very informative and many had hands-on activities.

After the workshops, everyone gathered again in the gym where there was lunch, surveys, and closing remarks. On the way out, each person received a gift bag that contained a variety of things like lip balm and toothpaste. All the students left the "Exploring New Horizons Conference" with information that will be useful in the future when they are making decisions that will affect the rest of their lives.



## Dalloway is a Wonderful Tale

*Mrs. Dalloway* \*\*\*1/2

By Marc Pelka

The new drama *Mrs. Dalloway*, based on the novel by Virginia Woolf, exemplifies why I have a passion for movies. More than allowing us to spend \$7.75 to sit in a dark room with perfect strangers, movies provide you with the experience of meeting new people, within them, who affect you in a fairly small time frame. Am I the only sappy one who has cried at the end of a movie? In the mere hour-and-a-half spent watching this wonderful film, I fell in love with its characters and empathized with their struggles, faults, and triumphs. *Mrs. Dalloway* is an intimate, still terse, story about growing up, falling in love, making life-long decisions, and finally growing older; it is a treat for the heart.

Much of the exposition is staged around a gentle Spring walk in 1923 by Clarissa Dalloway (Vanessa Redgrave) around the affluent districts, stores, and gardens of England as she prepares for her party this evening. Clarissa Dalloway is close to entering her golden years, but her positive attitude conveys nothing of the sort. She is first seen wearing a matching light-blue raincoat and hat with yellow feathers that hide her eyes and her attractive appearance from us. Most people who saw a woman dressed like this would think of her as a little cuckoo or perhaps a Communist spy.

Whenever Clarissa speaks about her "paawty," her blue eyes light up and a smile stretches across her face. Clarissa is the perfect hostess, for she works and worries to organize these galas, and isn't happy unless all of her guests are. She hosts these party because of nostalgia for her younger years when life was fun and unpredictable. With Redgrave's good looks, she fittingly portrays Clarissa's convergence of youth and age. She is so tall that she towers over almost every other actor in the film, but she never looks awkward, only elegant

Flashbacks are dovetailed

into present scenes and provide a smoother pacing without much interruption. Shorter flashbacks actually provide insight into the characters' mind set at given moments. After receiving a life-affirming experience, Clarissa, feeling youthful, scales down the stairs and the vision of a young Clarissa is overlaid. The young Clarissa (played by Natascha McElhone) looks like a cross between a narrower Kate Winslet and Meryl Streep.

Before Clarissa could decide whom she wanted to be in life, she was courted by her life-long friend, the impulsive Peter Walsh (Michael Kitchen), and the urbane Richard Dalloway, a stuffy person of sorts. Peter made her feel suffocated by urging her to seize the day and act spontaneously, while Richard represented her wanting to be well-to-do and ladylike. Also thrown into Clarissa's inextricable love entanglement was a bisexual relationship with her other best friend, the brash Sally. What is interesting is how close the lives of young adults in the early 20th century are still like ours today. The agony Peter shows because he's in love with Clarissa is expressed so well it seems less like the stuffy, upper-class society many of us imagine, and more like *Party Of Five*.

The whole mood of *Mrs. Dalloway* is graceful, enchanting, and delicate. There isn't the conventional pause at the start to introduce characters. Instead, we watch them in action and decide for ourselves what controls each of them. When a film can do that, it means there must be strong characters behind them.

The only fault of the screenwriting is how quickly it progresses. It flows so swiftly that you regret not spending more time with the characters by the end. Also, it is hard to analyze a character when something is always going on. *Mrs. Dalloway* is a unique yet brief film, which will make you desire more in the end.

Lately, as you have been aimlessly roaming around the halls of GHS, you probably have noticed people wearing stylish T-shirts that proudly display the word "Guster" across the front of them. Unaware that Guster is an increasingly popular acoustic threesome comprised of guitarists Adam Gardner, Ryan Miller, and bongo player Brian Rosenworcel of West Hartford, you might have thought that Guster was GHS's new weekend beverage of choice.

The members of Guster met in the early 90's, while they were all attending Tufts University in Boston. Eventually, after playing many gigs around the Boston area, Guster independently released their first album, *Parachute*. Several Boston magazines soon named it *Album of the Year*, and Guster was named Boston's best new band of 1994. During this time, Guster's steadily growing fan base began telling their friends about the band and about the concerts, at which Guster-phil-

es throw Pixy-Stix at the band. Through its website at [www.guster.com](http://www.guster.com) and through its many representatives who sell Guster gear and CDs, Guster nation grew some more. Guster released its second album, *Goldfly*, a couple years ago, and has since signed with Sire Records.

Back on February 27, Guster played the Webster Theatre in Hartford in an unbelievable show preceded by local jam-band, Rane. Pixy-Stix were

ever, Daisy with her chic, short hair, model-like nose, and beguiling smile convinces him that he deserves to be a member of the Stanton family. "Tell me why you're here [on this campaign.]" It's four o'clock in the morning, just tell the truth," she says, winning both him and me over.

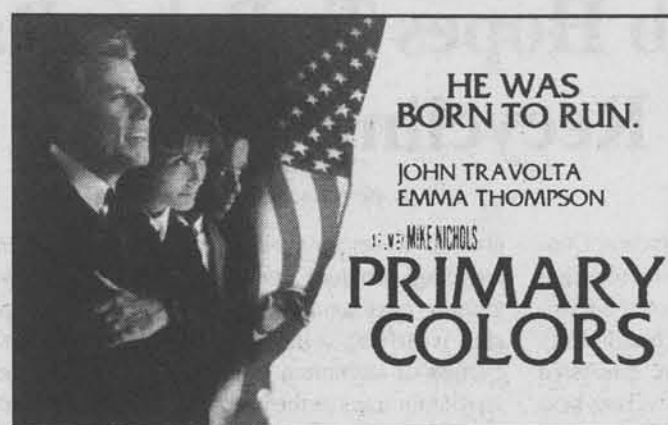
Quickly we learn the Stanton party is made of the typical staff of characters in comedies; they are eccentric enough to make us laugh, but in time of need can find a cunning coup to save the day. Kathy Bates offers another one of her free-speaking, foul-mouthed roles much like hers in HBO's *The Late Shift*. She plays Libby, a fervent political "dust buster" who's willing to enter the scene to clean up her bosses' name, but only for a good cause. What makes her performance special is that she has a softer side beneath all her curses and anatomical references. She is a woman who works for Stanton because she believes in him.

Billy Bob Thornton returns for another supporting role as political strategist Richard Jennings; a man who knows the ins and outs of the political atmosphere and makes a surprising prophecy in the middle. Unfortunately, this intriguing character isn't developed at all. After taking part in several funny scenes, he unexpectedly vanishes because he feels Stanton doesn't respect him. This only means the writer has been overwhelmed by too many characters so Billy Bob had to go.

Travolta's make-up should be a paragon for the frequent Clinton parodies on *Saturday Night Live* (he also looks quite like Richard Gere). His short, brittle strands of salt and pepper hair, his pasty skin, and his protruding belly oddly capture our president's appearances with real caricature. Stanton stuffs himself scene after scene with such fine American cuisine as donuts, barbecue ribs, fried chicken, and apple fritters. Travolta unobtrusively captures the same expression Clinton uses when responding to tragedy. His face wrinkles up, his clenched fist rises to his lips, and his words are formulated in choppy sentences as if he were battling a demon inside.

*Primary Colors* is like last year's *Wag the Dog* in that it shows the wily ways political aids must combat the press' revelation of scandals. Unfortunately, it also deals with the storyline used by such films as *Mr. Smith Goes To Washington* in which our protagonist leaves wistfully to participate in the great US democratic system, but returns home melancholy when he realizes the process isn't as genuine as thought.

What makes *Primary Colors* a tasty comedy is it can hold such silly characters who make us laugh on moment, but are compact enough to hold together for the more dramatic scenes. Especially if you liked *Wag the Dog* or just the political scene you will enjoy this film.



## Colors Captures Clinton Well

*Primary Colors*: \*\*1/2

By Marc Pelka

## Guster Nation is Growing

By Ian Gordon

flying as Guster belted out energetic tune after energetic tune. At one point, the band pulled a pudgy ten-year-old up on stage to dance while they played a song called "Happy Frappy." Although they are technically an acoustic band, Guster's sound was huge in a small venue like the Webster. Rosenworcel's manic bongo-drumming was worth the price of admission, and the vocals of Gardner and Miller were up to par. Currently, Guster is in Texas, but on May 17, they will be play-

ing at the Meadows Music Theatre as part of this year's annual Radio 104 Fest, which will also include Barenaked Ladies, Mighty Mighty Bosstones, and Soul Asylum, among others. Lawn tickets are \$20, while real seats are \$25; the festival starts at noon and goes until 10:00. If you go, remember your Pixy-Stix. For more information about Guster gear or their concert, call (617) 666-5510 or write to P.O. Box 441818, West Somerville, MA 02144.



# Freestyle

## Toy Bus Departure

and is it here in my crying chair, let the rain  
fall, let my tears burn all the windows and doorways  
and paper planes I've ever made...and I stare  
only thinking about how much my shoulders hurt  
and how I've lost the ability to turn dust  
to gold. I know I can't get skinny eating ice cream  
oh but I'm gonna try, I'm gonna try, anything to  
change...outside, outside people I don't  
know are laughing at jokes I will never hear and I  
don't even miss them. Even the crazy lady who  
dances naked every night in my dreams seems to  
disappear before I can ask her name, out of  
reach, out of reach. She's always one fingertip  
away but always just out of my reach...She's like my  
desires, loves, and all the words I ever longed to say  
knowing full well they may change my life and may be the  
world forever, and never did and I scream "why, why,  
why won't I wake up?" and fell and breath and  
become my swollen eyelids flutter and give way to a  
strange world I've always known and never noticed

As I begin. As I float. As I wake.

## And We Wonder Why?

By Beth Tolhurst

She stares longingly into space.  
No one's there, yet she dreams,  
She dreams of a man that could never be hers,  
Like a peasant who dreams of a knight.

Although he'll always be there,  
He'll never be there with her.  
She'll always dream, he'll always hint,  
But he'll never, ever be hers,

He looked at her for a moment,  
And she looked right at him.  
His baby blue eyes showing,  
On his face a goofy grin.

In that one moment,  
She wished it all could be.  
But then he turned away,  
And she knew it never could.

Yet why do they do it?  
Lead us on to believe,  
Believe that it could maybe...  
But then it never does.

## Gothic Angel

By Emily Kolk

Just look at her  
In her eyes  
She's diminishing

The angels are gone  
So very profound  
Leave her unfinished  
Leave her to drown

Stars in her sky  
Attracted to those  
Leaving her the same  
Silver lachrymose

How gothic her angel  
Mystification just  
Means more pain  
More starry dust.

BOB



## Anacin

By Emily Bird

While under glass  
I threw my stone

risking it all  
if only for you

smiling through the tears  
The pain lies fresh on my lips

terrified

drowning under the weight of life's heavy burdens  
in the river of my consciousness

could you even care?

brushed aside and pushed away  
my path back to reality is gone

broken

walking into darkness  
as my walls tumble down

images of what was  
(and what could have been)  
pollute my mind

reaching out for you  
to hold you close one last time

but you're out of my grasp  
a little out of my grasp

pain wraps it's fingers  
around my beating heart

stealing what's left of it

and runs, laughing down the street...



# What Do *You* Think?

By Tejal Gandhi

*What issues do you think affect the students the most at GHS?*



"Sports, because people get too worked up over things, like the puck problem."

-Jeff Manuck '00 and Maureen Borberly '00

"I think overcrowding in classes, halls, and sports are making it tough for students to participate."

-Duncan Gaunt '01

"Joe and I believe the biggest issues at GHS are the segregation between students at GHS, not necessarily racial, but social. And the lack of school spirit, brought on by our administration."

-Joe Melz '99 and Harvey Poon '99

"The stress of everything happening around you. There's homework, tests, sports, and trying to fill out college applications while doing a C.I. term paper!"

-Betsy Sleath '98

majority of students are affected by drugs and alcohol. Even if a person decides to remain drug and alcohol free, the pressure involved in that decision can be difficult."

-Val Nightingale '00

"How to get lunch money during lunch."

-Liz Grant '98

"I believe the issue that affects the students of GHS the most is peer pressure. Although most of the time it is undetectable, almost every action performed by a student is a reflection of what his or her friends do."

-Lisa Goodrich '00

"Grades"

-Brandy Givens '00

"We feel that our biggest issue is our lack of respect from faculty. We should be trusted to walk around the halls without these ludicrous blue passes."

-Eric Tillberg '99 and Lee Simon '99

